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1. the East German Minister of Health, Luitpold Steidle, visited the Ministry of Health of the Czechoslovak Republic. He was accompanied by Prof. Karl Walther, Prof. Maxim Zetkin, and Johanna Clausen, personal assistant to the Minister, all of the East German Ministry of Health. Prof. Walther later reported on the visit to the office of the East German Minister-President. [redacted] Walther is concerned with the anti-epidemic aspects of hygiene in the East German Ministry of Health. 50X1-HUM
2. In general, the organization of public health in Czechoslovakia is very well thought out. Hygiene and anti-epidemic work are treated as more important in Czechoslovakia than in East Germany. The Czechs consider general hygiene to be fundamental to all the other problems of their Ministry of Health. Representatives of the Hygiene Department of the Ministry are always consulted on every aspect of the 10-year plan for the rebuilding of Prague.
3. The importance accorded to these matters in Czechoslovakia is reflected in their academic arrangements:
  - a. A Central State Public Health Institute, which concerns itself almost exclusively with questions of hygiene, epidemiology and infection research.
  - b. A School for Public Health Officers (Hygieneaerzte) which gives doctors 6-month courses, so that they can function as epidemiologists in the various administrative districts.
  - c. Formation of a special Faculty for Hygiene and Epidemiology in the University of Prague, so that students, after a general medical training of 6 half-years (Semester), can specialize in these subjects.

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4. The Central State Public Health Institute corresponds roughly to the former German Reichsgesundheitsamt with its satellite institutes (Robert Koch, etc.). This Institute, under the leadership of Prof. Hons, includes the following five most important sections, each of which has the standing of a separate scientific institute and is also, partly at least, installed in its own building:
  - a. The Department for General Hygiene has particular responsibility for community hygiene and for water and sewage hygiene. The Laboratory for Water Analyses works closely with the Professor for Bacteriology of the University of Prague, Prof. Dr. Kredba.
  - b. The Institute for Epidemiology and Microbiology, head: Dr. Karel Raska, is the Czech center for all epidemiological work. There is a Virus Section and a Section for the Production of Antigens, Extracts and Agglutinating Sera (head: Dr. Sedlak). This latter section has a large collection of bacterial strains. Most of them are in dry form. There are now about 14,000 such strains. Prof. Walther found it remarkable that all the staff of this institute, without exception, wore white overalls.
  - c. The Institute for Food Hygiene has the normal functions of such an institute, viz., testing food and milk samples.
  - d. The Institute for the State Control of Medicines (particularly sera and vaccines), head: Prof. Dr. Skarnitzer, works with standard sera and toxins that must be imported.
  - e. The Department for (popular) Medical Education is responsible for the issue of pamphlets, brochures and films on public health matters.
5. After inspecting the Bulovka hospital, including the infectious diseases section, Prof. Walther spoke to the head of the isolation section, Prof. Dr. Prohaska. He learned that the Czech practice in matters of immunization was to give infants BCG at ten days. After three months they are inoculated against diphtheria (first injection), together with whooping-cough and tetanus prophylaxis. After another three months they are given the second and after another three, the third injection against diphtheria. After that they receive smallpox vaccination. Prof. Walther also learned that the problem of the typhoid bacillus carrier (Ausscheider) had not been solved in Czechoslovakia. There was, however, the rule that those who had recovered from typhoid or paratyphoid could not be used as blood donors.
6. Prof. Walther then visited the Hygiene Institute of the University of Prague (Director, Prof. Cancik) and discussed the hygiene of drinking water, town hygiene and related subjects. He discovered that research on aerosols and similar media is in progress in Czechoslovakia.
7. Prof. Walther then visited Dr. Litvinov, a Soviet professor who was then busy reorganizing the public health administration of Czechoslovakia. The conversation served chiefly to throw light on the organization of veterinary matters of public interest.
8. In Czechoslovakia, control over veterinary matters is divided. The breeding of animals and everything relevant to them, including their diseases, is controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The certification of animal products is controlled by the Ministry of Health. There are also some Veterinarians in the Food, Trade, and Supply Ministries.
9. Prof. Litvinov explained the situation in the USSR. He said that there was there one single state Veterinary Inspection Organization. This is subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture. This inspectorate is responsible for the application of all ordinances in slaughterhouses, and for epizootics. It is also responsible for meat quality. All large Soviet abattoirs have laboratories; their staff includes medical bacteriologists from the Ministry of Health

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who, however, are attached to the Ministry of Agriculture. As soon as the meat leaves the slaughterhouse, its hygiene is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health.

10. Czechoslovakia, like East Germany, is making depot penicillin and penicillin in ointment form.
  11. Prof. Zetkin, on his return to East Germany, was heard to remark [redacted] that Czech production of penicillin was quite sufficient to cover their own needs. He further said that a plant in Prague<sup>1</sup> was producing 800 billion units a year. 50X1-HUM
  12. Sera and vaccines are produced by Biogena. Production is entirely controlled by the Ministry of Health.
  13. The Czech Ministry of Health has its own Research Institute for Blood Transfusion. Rh antigen and test sera are produced in Dr. Raska's department. The Czechs make much use of dried blood plasma, which is produced in a special plant in Roztoky near Prague.
  14. In anti-epidemic work, there are special commissions in each of the 269 districts of Czechoslovakia for each of various special tasks. Thus there is a commission consisting of one epidemiologist, one clinician (Kliniker) and one nurse for the investigation of hepatitis endemica.
  15. There is an epidemiological center in each district and a hygiene-epidemiology station in each of the 19 administrative regions in Czechoslovakia.
  16. Prof. Walther finally registered [redacted] his disapproval of the separation of the chairs of bacteriology and hygiene in the medical faculty of the University of Prague; he thought that this would lead the bacteriology there to become a purely laboratory science. 50X1-HUM
1. [redacted] Comment: Probably the Roztoky factory, near Prague. 50X1-HUM

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